

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A windshield assembly, comprising:
a windshield panel movable between an operative position and two inoperative position positions, wherein the operative position lies between the two inoperative positions;
and

a coupling assembly coupled to ~~said the~~ the windshield panel, ~~said the~~ coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said the~~ the windshield panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position positions,

wherein ~~said the~~ the inoperative ~~position includes~~ positions include both a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing a windward side of ~~said the~~ the windshield panel and a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from the windward side of ~~said the~~ the windshield panel.

2. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the coupling assembly includes a first end defining a mounting bracket and a second end defining a pivot point about which the windshield panel pivots.

3. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ the second end includes ratchet washers that allow one-way movement only.

4. - 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the windshield panel ~~is made of~~ comprises polycarbonate plastic.

7. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a handguard element connected to ~~said the~~ the windshield panel.

8. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ the handguard element includes a central portion and a pair of hand protecting members integrally extending from opposite sides of ~~said the~~ the central portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ handguard element ~~is made of~~ comprises plastic.

10. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 7, further comprising at least one bracket assembly that mounts to the windshield panel.

11. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 10, wherein ~~said the~~ at least one bracket assembly ~~comprise~~ comprises a T-shaped element having a vertical section and a horizontal section, ~~said the~~ vertical section ~~including~~ includes at least one fastening hole defined therein that enables at least one fastener to pass therethrough, and ~~said the~~ horizontal section ~~including~~ includes at least one fastening hole defined therein that enable at least one fastener to pass therethrough.

12. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 11, wherein ~~said the~~ windshield panel is attached to ~~said the~~ vertical section of ~~said the~~ T-shaped element via at least one fastener that passes through at least one hole defined in ~~said the~~ windshield panel and ~~said the~~ fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ vertical section.

13. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 11, wherein ~~said the~~ handguard element is attached to ~~said the~~ horizontal section of ~~said the~~ T-shaped element via at least one fastener that ~~pass~~ passes through ~~said holes~~ at least one hole defined in ~~said the~~ handguard element and ~~said the~~ fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ horizontal section.

14. (Original) The windshield assembly according to claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the windshield panel is transparent.

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:
a frame;
at least one ground contacting element suspended from the frame to provide an interface between the frame and ground;
a handlebar operatively connected to the ground contacting element to steer the vehicle;

a seat positioned on the frame; and
a windshield assembly mounted on the frame ~~and including~~, wherein the windshield assembly comprises a windshield panel movable between an operative position and ~~an~~ two inoperative position positions, wherein the operative position lies between the two inoperative positions, and a coupling assembly between the handlebar and the windshield panel, ~~said~~ the coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said~~ the windshield panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative ~~position~~ positions, wherein ~~said the inoperative position includes~~ positions include both a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from the seat and a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction toward the seat.

16. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ the coupling assembly includes a first end defining a mounting bracket and a second end defining a pivot point about which the windshield panel pivots.

17. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the second end includes ratchet washers that allow one-way movement only.

18. - 19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ the windshield panel ~~is made out of~~ comprises polycarbonate plastic.

21. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, further comprising a handguard element connected to ~~said~~ the windshield panel.

22. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 21, wherein ~~said~~ the handguard element ~~includes~~ comprises a central portion and a pair of hand protecting members integrally extending from opposite sides of ~~said~~ the central portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 21, wherein ~~said~~ handguard element ~~is made of~~ comprises plastic.

24. (Original) The vehicle according to claim 21, further comprising at least one bracket assembly for mounting the windshield panel to the handguard element.

25. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 24, wherein ~~said the~~ at least one bracket assembly comprises a T-shaped element having a vertical section and a horizontal section, ~~said the~~ vertical section of ~~said the~~ T-shaped element includes a fastening hole defined therein that enables a fastener to pass therethrough, ~~said and the~~ horizontal section ~~including a~~ includes at least one fastening hole defined therein that enable a at least one fastener to pass therethrough.

26. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 25, wherein ~~said the~~ windshield panel is attached to ~~said the~~ vertical section of ~~said the~~ T-shaped element via a fastener that passes through a fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ windshield panel and a fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ vertical section.

27. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 25, wherein ~~said the~~ handguard element is attached to ~~said the~~ horizontal section of ~~said the~~ T-shaped element via a fastener that ~~pass~~ passes through ~~said the~~ at least one fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ handguard element and ~~said the~~ at least one fastening hole defined in ~~said the~~ horizontal section.

28. (Original) The vehicle according to claim 21, wherein the handguard element is formed integrally with the windshield panel.

29. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, wherein ~~said the~~ ground contacting element ~~includes~~ comprises a pair of front wheels and a pair of rear wheels suspended from the frame and the vehicle is an all terrain vehicle.

30. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, wherein the ground contacting element ~~includes~~ comprises a pair of front skis and a drive belt and ~~said the~~ vehicle is a snowmobile.

31. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 15, ~~where~~ wherein at least a portion of the windshield panel is transparent.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting a vehicle, the vehicle comprising a windshield assembly mounted on a frame of ~~said~~ the vehicle and including a windshield panel, the method comprising:

loading the vehicle on a trailer;

pivoting the windshield panel from an operative position into an inoperative position,

wherein ~~said~~ the inoperative position includes a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from a windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel such that the windshield panel is substantially horizontal; and

transporting ~~said~~ the vehicle such that wind pressure on ~~said~~ the windshield panel is substantially reduced.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting a vehicle according to claim 32, wherein ~~said~~ the vehicle is an all terrain vehicle.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting a vehicle according to claim 32, wherein ~~said~~ the vehicle is a snowmobile.

35. (Currently Amended) An all-terrain vehicle, comprising:
a frame;
a pair of front wheels and a pair of rear wheels suspended from the frame;
an engine operatively coupled to provide motive force to at least one of the pair of front and rear wheels and selectively operable to provide motive force to both the front and rear pairs of wheels;
a handlebar operatively connected to the front pair of wheels to steer the vehicle;
a straddle-type seat positioned on the frame;
a pair of footrests, one on each lateral side of the straddle-type seat; and
a windshield assembly mounted on the frame ~~and including, the windshield assembly~~ comprising a windshield panel movable between an operative position and an inoperative position, and a coupling assembly between the handlebar and the windshield panel, ~~said~~ the coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said~~ the windshield

panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position, wherein ~~said~~ the inoperative position includes a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from a windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel, wherein the windshield panel is substantially horizontal and adjacent the straddle-type seat such that wind pressure on ~~said~~ the windshield panel is substantially reduced during transport of the vehicle.

36. -- (Previously Presented) -- An all-terrain vehicle according to claim 35, wherein a width between the front pair of wheels is greater than a width of the handlebar.

37. (Currently Amended) A windshield assembly, comprising:
a windshield panel movable between an operative position and an inoperative position; and
a coupling assembly coupled to ~~said~~ the windshield panel, ~~said~~ the coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said~~ the windshield panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position,
wherein ~~said~~ the inoperative position includes a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing a windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel and a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from the windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel, and
wherein ~~said~~ the coupling assembly includes a first end defining a mounting bracket and a second end defining a pivot point about which the windshield panel pivots, wherein ~~said~~ the second end includes ratchet washers that allow one-way movement only.

38. (Currently Amended) A windshield assembly, comprising:
a windshield panel movable between an operative position and an inoperative position;
a coupling assembly coupled to ~~said~~ the windshield panel, ~~said~~ the coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said~~ the windshield panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position,

wherein ~~said~~ the inoperative position includes a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing a windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel and a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from the windward side of ~~said~~ the windshield panel; and

a handguard element connected to ~~said~~ the windshield panel.

39. (Currently Amended) The windshield assembly according to claim 38, -----
wherein ~~said~~ the handguard element includes a central portion and a pair of hand protecting members integrally extending from opposite sides of ~~said~~ the central portion.

40. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:

a frame;

a plurality of wheels suspended from the frame;

a handlebar operatively connected to the wheels to steer the vehicle;

a seat positioned on the frame; and

a windshield assembly mounted on the frame ~~and including~~, the windshield assembly comprising a windshield panel movable between an operative position and an inoperative position, and a coupling assembly between the handlebar and the windshield panel, ~~said~~ the coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said~~ the windshield panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position, wherein ~~said~~ the inoperative position includes a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction facing away from the seat and a rearward position in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction toward the seat,

wherein ~~said~~ the coupling assembly includes a first end defining a mounting bracket and a second end defining a pivot point about which the windshield panel pivots and ~~said~~ the second end includes ratchet washers that allow one-way movement only.

41. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:
a frame;
a plurality of wheels suspended from the frame;
a handlebar operatively connected to the wheels to steer the vehicle;
a seat positioned on the frame;
a windshield assembly mounted on the frame ~~and including, the windshield assembly~~
comprising a windshield panel movable between an operative position and an inoperative
position, and a coupling assembly between the handlebar and the windshield panel, ~~said the~~
coupling assembly including at least one coupling member that enables ~~said the~~ windshield
panel to move between the operative position and the inoperative position, wherein ~~said the~~
inoperative position includes a forward position in which the windshield panel is displaced
from the operative position in a direction facing away from the seat and a rearward position
in which the windshield panel is displaced from the operative position in a direction toward
the seat; and
a handguard element connected to ~~said the~~ windshield panel.

42. (Currently Amended) The vehicle according to claim 41, wherein ~~said the~~
handguard element includes a central portion and a pair of hand protecting members
integrally extending from opposite sides of ~~said the~~ central portion.